

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to prevent the environmental damage in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the information provided by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, no cement plants are located in apple growing areas of the State. Also the area and production of apple are increasing in the State.

(b) As per the information provided by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, the environment protection and conservation is the priority of the State Government and all the development is taken in conformity with the protection of environment.

(c) The cement industrial units, as listed in the Schedule of EIA Notification, 2006, are required to seek prior environmental clearance either at the Central level (for category 'A') or at the State level (for category 'B'). Necessary environmental safeguards are stipulated while according environmental clearances to such development projects.

Air quality in Capital

475. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether air quality in five locations of the Capital are far beyond the permissible level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to improve the situation;

(d) whether similar air quality studies have been conducted in other major cities and towns; and

(e) if so, what are the details and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Central Control Board (CPCB) has been monitoring the ambient air quality of Delhi at Nizamuddin, Janakpuri, Shahdara, Shahzada Bagh, Pitam Pura, under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The CPCB is also

operating three continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations located at Sirifort, ITO traffic junction and Delhi College of Engineering. Besides, on Hon'ble Delhi High Court directions in W.P. (C) 17855/2005 on January, 15, 2007, the CPCB has conducted ambient air quality monitoring at five locations namely—ISBT, Connaught Place, Karol Bagh, Dwarka and South Extension. Findings of monitoring at 5 locations indicate that 24-hour average concentration of Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) was within the prescribed limit at all the locations. The 24-hours average concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) was also found within the prescribed limit at all the locations except at South Extension. The 8-hours average concentration of Carbon Monoxide (CO) was exceeding the limit only in evening (2nd shift) at Connaught Place and South Extension due to high movement of vehicular traffic. The 24-hours average concentration of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) was found above the prescribed limits at all the locations.

(c) the measures taken to abate air pollution include—

- * Notification of general and source specific environmental standards;
- * Implementation of Bharat Stage-III emission norms, as provided in Auto Fuel Policy, from April 1, 2005, for both petrol and diesel driven new 4-wheeler vehicles and by introduction of Bharat-III compliant fuel;
- * Introduction of improved Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certification system for in-use vehicles;
- * Initiation of Source Apportionment Studies;
- * Switchover to CNG mode of entire intra-city bus fleet;
- * Use of washed coal (having ash not more than 34%) for all local based thermal power plants of Delhi;
- * Phasing out of more than 15 year old commercial transport vehicles;
- * Implementation of stringent diesel-generator set emission norms;
- * Regular monitoring for environmental compliance.

(d) and (e) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with State Pollution Control Boards is monitoring ambient air quality at 313 stations in 115 cities/towns in 25 States and 4 Union Territories.